(b) if so, whether any headway has been made to resolve border tension; and

(c) how far Indian foreign diplomacy has succeeded in taming Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Following his visit to India on 19th July, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visited Pakistan on 20th July. He returned to Delhi on the evening of 20th July and met with EAM. Mr. Straw shared with EAM his assessment of his meeting with the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Inam-ul-Haq.

(b) and (c) Following India's diplomatic efforts, the international community has widely acknowledged Pakistan's involvement with cross border infiltration and terrorism. There has been a consistent demand that Pakistan put a permanent stop to cross-border infiltration and terrorism and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism. There is also acknowledgement that these steps against terrorism would be necessary before deescalation and dialogue can be envisaged. India will continue in its diplomatic efforts to ensure that this sequence continues to be accepted as the framework for resolving India-Pakistan tensions.

Extradition of Prabhakaran

2417. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Sri Lanka on the eve of the current session of Parliament, he had taken up with Sri Lanka the question of extradition of V. Prabhakaran in connection with the assassination of Late Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India; and

(b) if so, the Sri Lankan Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the visit of Minister of External Affairs to Sri Lanka on July 11-12, 2002. A formal request for the extradition of Shri V. Prabhakaran, leader of the LTTE was made to the Government of Sri Lanka in June 1995. The issue is discussed with the Government of Sri Lanka from time to time and they have been made fully aware of our

position. The Government of Sri Lanka have informed us that the request is receiving their due consideration and that the extradition, if agreed to, would have to await completion of trial and legal processes in Sri Lanka.

Reports of U.S. Commission on Gujarat Violence

2418. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Asian Age, captioned "The foreign hand in Gujarat is home-grown" mentioning that the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has strongly condemned the Gujarat Government for its alleged complicity in the genocide, ethnic cleansing programme directed at Muslims;

(b) if so, whether the said U.S. Commission has also pointed out that extremist organisations in India are getting fund from Indian diaspora in the UK and the USA; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has seen the report referred to in the question. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom conducted a hearing on 10 June, 2002 on the subject of "Recent Communal Violence in Gujarat, India and Response." Government regards this exercise of the Commission, which is a non-official body, as an internal process of the United States. Government rejects any intrusive inquiry into how we conduct our affairs. India's long tradition of secularism and its constitutional, legal and institutional safeguards for the rights and welfare of all citizens are well known.

Differences between India and U.S. on infiltration issue

2419. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India, U.S. differ on infiltration issue" which published in 'The Times of India' dated the 14th July, 2002;